

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Nicholas Lombardo, and I am a resident and member of the West Hartford and Hartford communities in CT.

The CT Police Accountability Bill is a start, but far from comprehensive enough to get to the root of the problems I and others in CT see with our police.

This bill needs to include the following:

- 1) An end to qualified immunity
- 2) A reduction in the amount of combat training with a diversion of this time and the resources to training in de-escalation and discrimination training
- 3) Screening for racism before entering the police academy
- 4) An external jury of citizens to review cases of police brutality, discrimination, and other complaints made against police officers
- 5) Banning military grade weapons from local police forces
- 6) Cutting police budgets in order to build non-police emergency task forces.

This bill should not increase police budgets. The citizens deserve community based funding for projects that will decrease crime. Increasing police budgets will not achieve that.

Police are not adequately trained to handle mental health calls. Social workers can skillfully de-escalate potentially dangerous individuals. The use of excessive force is not only unacceptable due to the harm it causes these citizens, but also results in medical treatment of injuries which can lead to tax payer dollars going towards avoidable costs of ER treatment for uninsured citizens.

Encouraging social workers to be involved in mental health calls is not enough. It must be mandatory that a social worker attempt to alleviate the situation before police get involved. Furthermore, police must be required by law to use de-escalation tactics before using any force, and this force must be applied in a step-wise fashion with the least harmful form of force used first.

Police budgets are paid for by the citizens, and we will not stand for police brutality and the use of unnecessary force.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Lombardo